

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
ALL NATO CAPITALS
INFO USNMR SHAPE
CINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, MPOL
SUBJECT: NATO STANDARDIZATION
FOR POLADS

1. THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT OM THE FY-76
DEFENSE BUDGET REQUEST CONTAINED THESE COMMENTS ON NATO
STANDARDIZATION:

2. "SECTION 804 OF THIS BILL, OFFERED BY SENATORS CULVER
AND NUNN, AND RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE, SEEKS TO IM-
PROVE THE PROSPECTS FOR STANDARDIZATION BY DECLARING IT TO
BE THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES THAT EQUIPMENT PROCURED
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FOR US FORCES STATIONED IN EUROPE UNDER TERMS OF THE NORTH
ATLANTIC TREATY BE STANDARDIZED AND INTEROPERABLE WITH THE
EQUIPMENT OF OUR NATO ALLIES. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IS
DIRECTED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES
TO ACHIEVE STANDARDIZATION TO THE MAXIMUM FEASIBLE EXTENT.

3. "THIS POLICY DECLARATION SETS A GOAL, BUT NOT A HARD AND FAST REQUIREMENT, SINCE THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MAY WISH TO PROPOSE, AND THE CONGRESS MAY APPROVE, PROCUREMENT OF NONSTANDARD EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO SERVE THE BROADER MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. SO THAT DEVIATIONS FROM THIS POLICY MAY BE CAREFULLY EVALUATED, HOWEVER, PARAGRAPH (C) OF THIS PROPOSED SECTION REQUIRES THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PROVIDE THE CONGRESS, ALONG WITH THE ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST, A DESCRIPTION OF SUCH NONSTANDARD ITEMS WHICH ARE PROPOSED TO BE PROCURED, AND A JUSTIFICATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE GOAL OF STANDARDIZATION.

4. "THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT SECTION 2 OF TITLE III OF THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1933 (47 STAT. 1520; 41 U.S.C. 10A), THE SO-CALLED "BUY AMERICA" ACT, ALREADY CONTAINS SUFFICIENT LATITUDE TO ENABLE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PURCHASE ARTICLES MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES WHEN SUCH PURCHASE IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. NEVERTHELESS, THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO MAKE THIS AUTHORITY EXPLICIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING STANDARDIZATION IN NATO EQUIPMENT, AND THIS IS DONE BY PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS PROPOSED SECTION.

5. "THE COMMITTEE HOPES THAT THIS AMENDMENT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE SERIOUS INTEREST AND CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES IN ACHIEVING STANDARDIZATION, AND WILL ENCOURAGE OUR NATO ALLIES TO JOIN IN THIS VITAL EFFORT. THE COMMITTEE ALSO EXPECTS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO BE ENERGETIC AND CREATIVE IN DEVELOPING PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR SPECIALIZATION, SHARING OF EFFORTS, AND COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS TO CARRY OUT THIS POLICY.

6. "COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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"AN INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL PART OF STANDARDIZATION IS REPRESENTED BY THE ESTABLISHED AND EXPANDING PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN INCREASING THE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

"THE COMMITTEE STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS POLICY AND CONSIDERS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY SELECTION OF THE FRENCH/GERMAN DEVELOPED ROLAND II SHORT RANGE AIR DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM TO BE A MAJOR MILESTONE IN DEMONSTRATING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO MOVE IN A POSITIVE MANNER IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE EVEN GREATER EFFORTS IN

THIS DIRECTION.

7. "COOPERATIVE SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

"STANDARDIZATION GOES BEYOND WEAPON SYSTEMS AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. HALF OF THE \$10-15 BILLION ESTIMATED ALLIED WASTE EACH YEAR DUE TO LACK OF STANDARDIZATION IS IN THE SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS AREA. NATO HAS 14 LOGISTIC SUPPORT SYSTEMS, ALL SEPARATELY MANAGED. WITHIN EACH SYSTEM ARE DIFFERING FACILITIES, COMPONENT REPAIR PARTS AND FACILITIES, MUNITIONS CALIBERS, ETC. IN DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF STEPS THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE COMPATIBILITY, OPERABILITY, AND STANDARDIZATION IN NATO. STANDARDIZING THE CALIBERS OF AMMUNITION AND THE TYPES OF FUEL IS LESS DRAMATIC THAN STANDARDIZING THE TYPE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT USED, BUT A REAL PAYOFF IN FIGHTING CAPABILITY AND ORGANIZATION WILL BE REALIZED FROM IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS AREA." KISSINGER

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